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IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE

International Application No. : PCT/EP98/06134
International Filing Date : 28 September 1998
Priority Date(s) Claimed : 30 September 1997
Applicant(s) (DO/EO/US) : WEBER, Alfred, et al.

Title: PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ERGOSTEROL AND ITS
INTERMEDIATE PRODUCTS USING RECOMBINANT YEASTS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The claims of the above-identified International Application were amended under Articles 19 and/or 34 of the PCT. It is requested that examination in the U.S. National Phase be based on the claims as originally filed under the PCT and this Preliminary Amendment is based on the original claims.

Prior to calculating the national fee, and prior to examination in the National Phase of the above-identified International application, please amend as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 4: Please rewrite the claim, as follows:

A1
4. (Amended) Process for the production of ergosterol and its intermediate products according to claim 1, wherein the genes [that are mentioned in claim 1 under a), those in claim 2 under a-i) to a-vii) and those in claim 3 under a-ii), a-iii) and a-v)] in each case with the plasmids are first introduced independently of one another into microorganisms of the same species, and fermentation into ergosterol is performed with them together and the ergosterol that is thus obtained is extracted from the cells, analyzed and purified using column chromatography and isolated.

Claims 5, 6, 7 and 8, line 1: Change "claims 1 to 4" to -- claim 1 --.

Claims 15, 16 and 17, line 1: Change "claims 12 to 14" to -- claim 12 --.